

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release February 28, 1975

McGarvey 202/343-5634

LIFTING OF KANGAROO EXPORT BAN VIEWED WITH CONCERN

"We view with concern the partial lifting of the export ban on kangaroos by the Australian Federal Government," Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Nathaniel P. Reed, said today.

Three species of kangaroo were listed by Interior as threatened species on January 29, 1975.

"Interior Department regulations," Reed said, "prohibit importation into the United States for commercial purposes of kangaroos or their parts or products until the Australian Federal Government certifies that Australian state governments have developed an effective sustained yield program for kangaroos and that the taking of the animal will not be detrimental to the survival of those species or subspecies."

The Australian Government's export ban will be lifted, effective March 3, 1975, in two Australian states, New South Wales and South Australia, according to a Department of State telegram received on February 25.

The partial lifting of the ban was jointly announced February 20th by Dr. Moss Cass, Minister for Environment and Conservation, and the new Minister for Customs and Excise, Mr. Kep Enderby. The announcement said that limited exports will be allowed of skins and products taken from Australian states "where conservation and management programs have been implemented." The export ban will remain in effect in two non-complying states, Queensland and Western Australia, until they introduce conservation programs approved by the Australian Federal Government.

(over)

Export quotas for the remainder of 1975 will be 205,000 skins for New South Wales and 80,000 skins for South Australia. Only those skins and products of kangaroos taken after March 3, 1975, may be exported. Skins stockpiled since the export ban was imposed in April 1973 may not be exported.

"I want to remind all Americans," Secretary Reed said, "that the importation of kangaroos or their parts or products for commercial purposes is unlawful. Since we have not received the required evidence from the Australian Federal Government that kangaroos are being managed wisely, none of the three species listed as threatened--the red, eastern grey, and western grey--may be imported into the United States for commercial purposes. This prohibition does not apply, however, to importation for personal use."

Mr. Reed added that the United States Embassy in Canberra will be asked to notify Dr. Cass, Mr. Enderby, and the governments of New South Wales and South Australia that the prohibition, of which the Australian Federal Government was previously informed, is still in effect. Kangaroos or their parts and products cannot be imported into the United States!

x x x